

WYE RIVER & SEPARATION CREEK PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC.
Wye River Community Forum – Sunday 22nd January 2017

Wye River EstuaryWatch Group

Under the auspices of Corangamite Catchment Management Authority, since October 2012 the Wye River EstuaryWatch group has met on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month to record and photograph our estuary condition. Uploading our findings onto the EstuaryWatch website has created a significant database for comparison with any unusual changes which might occur from time to time.

As well, we report and record any special weather events – such as that which occurred last September, the consequences of which put us back in the news once again. But whatever else it did, it also significantly changed our estuary – temporarily and otherwise.

You can view our findings and photos at www.estuarywatch.org.au.

This year we have a new and improved website for which we were required to attend formal training sessions. An additional benefit of this was meeting similarly motivated EstuaryWatch members from other local district groups.

It will be interesting to compare the photos we took of our estuary this time last year, when our river was seriously depleted both by the lack of significant Spring rains and the water it gave to help protect local infrastructure and properties on Christmas Day. Now, after quite a different Spring, we see a river familiar to us all – once again full and flowing vigorously on its journey to the sea.

This strong, uninterrupted flow is vital to maintain river health including dispersal of run-off and the flushing out of the 'lagoon' beside the Beachfront Camping Ground in which so many children like to play during Summer.

This year, we will continue our regular monitoring, which along with Waterwatch findings, represents an example of citizen science which may prove important as the effects of climate change become more and more apparent.

New members are always welcome, with formal training provided by our always affable co-ordinator, Rose Herben of CCMA. However, if you would like to see what we do before making a commitment, please contact me for when our next monitoring is due, so you can come along and join us.

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